

Message Text

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44

ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 SSO-00 L-03 COME-00

TRSE-00 /038 W

----- 094209

O 071450Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7887

INFO AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS OPIC

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, BC

SUBJECT: SODA ASH PROJECT

REF: A. STATE 080107, B. GABORONE 0181

1. UPON RECEIPT OF REF A APRIL 3, SUBSTANCE PARA 2 WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO GAOLATHE. HE HAS BEEN MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER CONCERNED MINISTRIES ON THE ISSUES INVOLVED. MORNING OF APRIL 7 HE DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH CHARGE'. HE FIRST OF ALL ASSURED CHARGE' THAT HE IS AWARE OF THE GULF POSITION. AS OF APRIL 7 HE HAS ANSWERED GULF QUERY DIRECTLY BY TELEX ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT ALLEN. GIST OF MESSAGE WAS THAT GOB WOULD PREFER NOT TO ADDRESS ISSUES BY CABLE BUT WAS PREPARED TO MEET WITH ALLEN AND MEMBERS OF HIS BOARD TO DISCUSS ANY ASPECT OF THE AGREEMENT INCLUDING WHATEVER NEW INFORMATION GULF HAD WHICH MIGHT AFFECT IT. MESSAGE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT DISCUSSIONS WOULD NOT FAIL ON THE BASIS OF THE TWO ISSUES.

2. COMMENT: GOB APPEARS TO REMAIN STRONGLY COMMITTED TO REACHING AGREEMENT WITH GULF (REF B). ON THAT BASIS, EMBASSY ENDORSES THE IDEA OF ALLEN VISITING BOTSWANA BOTH TO WORK OUT LAST-MCNUTE PROBLEMS AND TO GET A FEEL FOR THE SITUATION HERE. THOMSEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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